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RECLAMATION PROVIDES NEW FARMLAND
PERMITS INTRODUCTION OF NEW CROPS

FERTILE LAND INCREASED IN HERZEGOVINA -- Politika, No 13295, 21 Jul 49

Mostar -- Large-scale reclamation work in six large and several small karst polje (basins) of Hercegovina has been going on for the last 3 years.

One of the largest karst polje in Hercegovina, Mostarsko Blato (Mostar Swamp), has been drained for the most part and transformed into fertile farmland. Last year potatoes, cabbage, and grain planted for the first time on the reclaimed portion of the polje yielded large crops. More than 6,300 hectares of arable land have been recovered thus far by the reclamation of Drinovacko Polje. Large quantities of tobacco, cotton, and grain were harvested there last year. This year large plantings of cotton were made in both areas, including over 400 hectares in Mostarsko Blato alone.

This year's plan for the reclamation of karst polje- in Herzegovina is larger than last year's. Irrigation and drainage canals will be completed in Mostarsko Blato. A canal now being cut will carry water from Listica Creek through a net of irrigation canals during the dry months. The bed of the Jasenica has been deepened and widened in certain places so that it will receive water from Mostarsko Blato. Regulation of this river will be completed this year, and the regulation of Imotsko-Bekijsko Polje has begun with the regulation of the Tihaljina, Mlada, and Trebizat.

In Dabarsko Polje, which is regarded as the most fertile karst polje in Hercegovina, nearly 3,000 hectares will be recovered for intensive farming through reclamation. This year work was begun on a tunnel to carry water from Trusinsko Polje to Radimlje Creek. In the polje itself the ponor (shaft) will be widened to allow water to drain off more rapidly.

In Trebinjsko Polje, work on the main irrigation canal is in its final stages. A small tunnel on the right bank of the Trebisnjica also is nearing completion. As the Trebisnjica extends into the middle of the polje, the main irrigation canal will be divided into two branches at the Arslanagic bridge to permit the irrigation of the entire polje.

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In Gatacko Polje, where the existing reclamation installations were repaired and the canal dredged last year, swamp drainage will begin this year. The ponor will be opened and torrents regulated in Fatnicko Polje. The cutting of a net of drainage canals in Stolačko Polje is near completion. Large quantities of early vegetables were grown on this project last year.

Work will begin next year on the reclamation of several other large karst polje. Bisce Polje, a great sterile wasteland of over 11,000 hectares near Mostar, will be cleared of gravel and scrub. Large irrigation canals will be built along the Neretva between Slavković and the mouth of the Vuna. After the reclamation work has been completed, tobacco, cotton, vegetables, and fruits will be grown in this area which has never produced anything but scrub and stunted grass.

Popovo Polje, with an area of 4,000 hectares, is often flooded by the Trebišnjica River. Preliminary work is now under way in preparation for reclamation work next year. About 12 farm workers' cooperatives which have been formed in this polje will profit greatly from this project.

Most of Hutovo Blato in Capljina Srez is under water all year. Experts have found that if part of the swamp is reclaimed, rice can be grown there successfully, and the rest of the polje can be made into a great fishpond.

The reclamation of the karst polje and the adoption of modern methods will expand the cultivation of tobacco, cotton, and castor beans which are now raised in Hercegovina in large quantities. It will also promote the cultivation of vegetable and fruit crops and permit the introduction of such industrial plants as sesame, ramie, decan hemp, lallemantia, and other aromatic and rubber-producing plants hitherto unknown to growers in Hercegovina. Land hitherto flooded or sterile will, in some cases, produce two or three crops a year.

FLOOD CONTROL ATTEMPTED -- Rad, No 181, 1 Aug 49

For more than 20 years, large areas of Ivanjsko Polje in the Bosnian Posavina have been flooded regularly by the Ukrina River and its tributaries during heavy rains. To prevent this, work was begun in 1946 toward strengthening the existing levee.

This summer large-scale work has been undertaken according to a revised plan. When reclamation work has been completed, 9,000 hectares of the polje will be available for uninterrupted cultivation.

The construction of the large Ukrina - Sava Canal, which will cross Ivanjsko Polje, will drain the whole polje in wet seasons and irrigate it to dry.

RECLAMATION NEAR THE ADRIATIC COAST -- Politika, No 13289, 14 Jul 49

Hercegovci -- Volunteers from the People's Front who are working on the reclamation of the Sutorina Polje and the regulation of the Sutorina River. This work will make 600 hectares of very fertile land available for cultivation. The land is suitable for the culture of various industrial plants and subtropical crops.

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